-REMARKS / ARGUMENTS-

Claims 1-10, 12-15 and 25-41 are presently pending in this application. Claims 11 and 16-24 are cancelled without prejudice. Claims 25-41 are new. Claim 25 is a new method claims which is supported at least by paragraph [0055]. Claim 26 is a new method claim that covers an embodiment that was previously listed as a limitation of claim 1. Claims 27-42 are claims directed to an optical connector assembly that correspond to the previous method claims.

Claims 1-3, 5-10, and 12-15 are amended to correct errors unrelated to novelty or obviousness or to broaden them.

No new matter is added by the present amendments.

The Office Action states that claims 1-15 (Group I) and claims 16-24 (Group II) are directed to distinct inventions. The Applicant hereby elects claim Group I and amends the claims accordingly.

The Application should now be in condition for allowance and a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Serial No. 10/625,905 Response to Office Action of Oct. 4, 2005 Agent's Ref. 16005-1US Amdt. dated Jan. 4, 2006

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

C. Marc BENOIT (Reg. No. 50,200) Name of person signing certification

Signature

Date

Serial No. 10/625,905 Response to Office Action of Oct. 4, 2005 Agent's Ref. 16005-1US Amdt. dated Jan. 4, 2006